



SUSTAINING THE BACKBONE OF AMERICA

Protect Our Nation's Heartland from Rising Costs on Essential Working Vehicles

America's rural economy is powered by working vehicles like UTVs and ATVs that farmers and ranchers rely on daily to grow food, care for livestock, and keep operations running. While these vehicles are essential tools of modern agriculture, rising tariffs are squeezing farmers and rural communities by driving up equipment costs by thousands of dollars.

Farmers and Ranchers Are in Financial Crisis

American agricultural workers are under severe financial stress, leaving farmers increasingly desperate as they enter planting season. Experts describe this as the toughest economy for farmers in nearly 50 years.

This means thousands of dollars in new costs are hitting farm budgets before a single dollar of additional tariff-driven equipment expense is added on.

**ONLY
1-IN-3**

farmers say they can afford the fertilizer they need for this season—they can't afford any more price hikes.

60%

of farmers report their finances have worsened this year due to rising fertilizer and fuel costs.

**\$4
BILLION**

is the expected decline of net farm income in 2026. This April, farm bankruptcies skyrocketed—jumping by 82%.

Tariffs Meant to Strengthen America's Economy are Driving Up Farm Equipment Costs

President Trump has made clear that his trade agenda focuses on protecting American workers and strengthening domestic industry. However, when tariffs increase the price of essential off-road working vehicles, they create heavy, unintended pressure for the farmers and rural communities who rely on them.

Section 232 tariffs have imposed 25% tariffs on products that contain imported steel.

A revised proclamation this week reduced the tariffs rate on ATVs to 15%, while leaving higher rates in place for other vehicles. Even at these levels, tariffs can still add up to \$5,000 to the cost.

Farm advocates are warning that these tariffs are hitting farmers and rural businesses the hardest. When layered on top of recent spikes in fertilizer and fuel, these equipment hikes could push family farms out of business and deepen economic strain in rural communities across our nation.

Policy Recommendations to Protect Farmers and Rural Communities

To keep America's farms productive and rural communities strong, policymakers should adopt targeted measures that protect working vehicles and the people who rely on them daily.

Targeted tariff relief for off-road working vehicles:

- **Extend Section 232 relief** to working vehicles like UTVs and ATVs, mirroring the relief already granted to motorcycles and e-bikes.
- **Preserve equipment** used in agriculture and other essential rural industries, so family farms and small-town employers are not penalized by higher vehicle prices.

Our nation's agricultural heartland sustains the American way of life. From dawn to dusk, these families provide the food, fuel, and fortitude that keep our country moving, and President Trump's America First agenda has continued to recognize the vital role farm communities play in making the country great. To keep America strong, we must address the unintended consequences of the America First trade agenda with targeted relief that protects the vital machinery that supports American farms.